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a community magazine and business directory
for residents of shirley

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Blossomfield Grange is designed with signage, colour schemes, soft furnishings and floor coverings all chosen to create a calm and accessible home from home. The dementia suite also includes extra items to aid reminiscence and create a sensory and engaging space. We also have our own café bistro, hair salon and large established gardens, enabling all residents to enjoy a fulfilling lifestyle.

Blossomfield Grange care home
1 Worcester Way (Off Dog Kennel Lane),
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careuk.com/blossomfield-grange

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AFTER

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GaryMM-1318, 24 Aug 2023



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Love is in the air!

Welcome to the February edition

Hopefully you had a Valentine's Day full of love, whether it was love from a partner, a family member, a friend, or a pet!

But if Valentine's Day just passed you by, why not show your home some love instead? There's a wide range of local businesses and tradespeople in here who can help you improve your home, whether you need doors, driveways, or decorating.



Zoe Reece

Tel: 07557 220585

Email: zoe@dorridgedirectory.com

www.shirleyindex.com

An advertisement for Explore Learning. The background shows a young boy in a classroom wearing headphones and smiling with his hand raised. The text is overlaid on a blue graphic element. The logo 'Explore Learning' is in the top right. The main headline reads 'See their eyes light up.' Below it, it says 'ACHIEVE REAL PROGRESS and unlock a love of learning.' Further down, it mentions 'Award-winning tuition in centre and online.' and provides the phone number 'Call: 0121 647 4395'. The website 'explorelearning.co.uk' is in the bottom left corner.

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community events

Elvis Tribute Night

23 March, Shirley
British Legion

Join in for a sensational night of music and entertainment as they pay tribute to the King of Rock 'n' Roll with Mark Green as Elvis Presley. Get ready to be transported back in time to the era of Elvis. Feel free to come on your own or bring your friends along for a fantastic night of Elvis tribute music! Tickets from www.tributenightpromotions.co.uk

Diamond Nights - Tribute to Neil Diamond

22 March, The Lake
at Barston

Don't let them tell you that Neil Diamond doesn't rock! Their longest lasting tribute artist performs "Love

on the Rocks", "Coming to America", "Sweet Caroline", "Crackling Rosie" and "Song Sung Blue". This show will be followed up by a few party songs to get you up dancing. To book tickets call 01675 444890

Michael Bublé Tribute with Bootleg Bublé

9 March, Nailcote HALL

Bootleg Bublé is a captivating tribute artist who channels the timeless charm and smooth crooning of the legendary Michael Bublé. With an uncanny resemblance in voice and style, Bootleg Bublé transports audiences to the golden era of swing and jazz, delivering an unforgettable performance. Tickets from www.nailcotehall.co.uk



Crufts

7-10 March, NEC

Established in 1891, Crufts is the greatest dog show in the world. The show takes place over four days and has been held at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), Birmingham since 1991. It attracts thousands of dogs with their owners and handlers, displaying their dogs' skills and abilities to adoring crowds. Tickets from www.thenec.co.uk



The Reggaeators

13 April, Land Rover
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Ouch - How to remove a splinter

Splinters are painful and tricky to remove. I remember my mother digging around in the tender ball of my thumb with a darning needle one evening when I was ten. The splinter on that occasion had lodged itself firmly and resisted all attempts to prise it out while I resisted all attempts to have it prised out! Years later a friend training to be nurse taught me how to remove splinters safely and I pass on the knowledge here. First clean the area with soap and water. Inspect the splinter; use a magnifying glass if you have

one. Look at the angle of entry and how deeply embedded the splinter is. If the splinter protrudes from the skin it can be removed with tweezers. Sterilise the tweezers first using surgical spirit (neat Vodka also works) and if you need a magnifier get someone else to hold it; then grip the splinter gently and pull it out along the same angle it entered the skin. Small, fine splinters can be trickier, especially if they are more deeply embedded. In this instance cover the affected area with Magnesium Sulphate paste (cheap and available

from all pharmacies) and then bandage it. Leave overnight and in the morning the splinter will have surfaced. If it hasn't, reapply and bandage again. The Magnesium sulphate is anhydrous and draws moisture out of the wound and with it the splinter. Once the end of the splinter pokes out you can use tweezers to remove it completely.

Remember:

If you use a needle to break the skin prior to applying the paste make sure the needle is sterile. Never try to squeeze a splinter out; you may drive it in further.



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The image is a composite of two photographs. The left photograph shows a close-up of a gold-colored shower system mounted on a wall of light grey tiles. It includes a large rain showerhead at the top, a handheld showerhead on a sliding bar, and a gold shower tray. The right photograph shows a bathroom corner with a white wall and a patterned tile bench. The bench has a blue and white geometric pattern. On the bench are two bottles of soap. A potted plant in a blue pot sits on a shelf above the bench. A wooden stool with a brush on it is in the foreground.

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Queen of the Climbers

Clematis, often hailed as the “Queen of the Climbers”, is a beloved

fixture in many UK gardens. Its enchanting flowers, ranging from delicate, star-shaped blossoms to bold, dramatic blooms, can transform fences, walls, and trellises into living art. But clematis, like many plants, needs pruning, and understanding the pruning requirements of your particular clematis will depend on its pruning group.

Clematis are categorized into three main pruning groups: 1, 2, and 3. These groups are determined by the plant’s flowering time and the age of the flowering wood.

Group 1 clematis bloom early in the year, flowering on the previous year’s growth. These varieties, like the alpine clematis, produce flowers in late spring and are generally the least demanding in terms of pruning. Pruning, if necessary, should be done immediately after flowering. The goal is to remove dead or weak stems and to shape the plant, but heavy pruning is not needed. If left unpruned, these clematis can become a tangle of old wood with few flowers.

Group 2 clematis flower in late spring or early summer on short shoots developing from



the previous year’s growth and often have a second, less vigorous flush in late summer on the current year’s growth. Examples include the popular varieties like ‘Nelly Moser’ and ‘Miss Bateman’. Pruning for Group 2 should be light, focusing on removing dead and weak stems in late winter or early spring, so February is the perfect time. You can also lightly prune after the first flowering to encourage a more robust second bloom.

Group 3 clematis flower on the current year’s growth, producing blooms from mid to late summer until the first frost. This group includes varieties like ‘Jackmanii’ and ‘Sweet Autumn Clematis’. They require more extensive pruning, cut back almost to ground level (15-30 cm above the ground) in February. This encourages strong new growth and a profusion of flowers at a manageable height.

Why prune at all?

It’s important because it rejuvenates the plant by encouraging new growth, which is essential for flowering, particularly in Group 2 and 3 clematis. It helps maintain the shape and size of the plant, preventing it from becoming unruly and tangled. Regular pruning also allows for better air circulation through the plant, reducing the risk of fungal diseases.

When pruning, always use clean, sharp tools to make clean cuts. This prevents damage to the plant and reduces the risk of disease. After pruning, it’s beneficial to apply a balanced fertilizer and mulch to provide nutrients and maintain soil moisture.

With the right pruning techniques, your clematis will be a stunning feature in your garden, showcasing its floral beauty season after season.

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